

**APPLICATION  
INSTRUCTION BOOKLET**

**FOR THE**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
FEDERAL PROPERTY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
HOMELESS**

**PROGRAM SUPPORT CENTER**

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## PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- The Federal Property Assistance Program (FPAP), under the authority of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, transfers surplus Federal property to eligible local governments and non-profit organizations for various public benefit purposes, including those overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Public Health and Homeless.
- In 1987 Congress passed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, of which Title V utilizes the existing FPAP structure to make the conveyance of surplus properties to providers of homeless assistance services a priority over other means of property disposal to non-Federal entities.
- As amended, Title V of the McKinney-Vento Act makes excess/surplus Federal property found suitable by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) available to assist persons experiencing homelessness at no cost, not including fees or costs in connection with the transfer of the property (e.g., local recordation fees).
- Property found excess due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is not included in the scope of Title V; rather, it is under the scope of a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).
- HHS has overseen the transfer of properties for a wide range of homeless uses, including, but not limited to:
  - Temporary or transitional housing;
  - Counseling services;
  - Healthcare services;
  - Administrative offices for organizations that support persons experiencing homelessness;
  - Permanent supportive housing (long-term housing linked to appropriate supportive health and social services);
  - Emergency shelters;
  - Food banks;
  - Women's shelters; and
  - Homeless services for Veterans.
- Please note that permanent housing that does not have a support aspect (e.g. mental health services or continual medical care) **does not** qualify as an eligible use.

## PROGRAM CONDITIONS SUBSEQUENT TO CONVEYANCE

**HHS transfers real property by quitclaim deed or lease, which are subject to the following conditions contained in the conveyance instrument:**

1. Grantee must utilize the property in accordance with their approved application for a period of thirty (30) years from the date of the initial deed.
2. Where construction or major renovation is not required or proposed, grantee must put the Property into use within twelve (12) months from the date of the deed. Where grantee contemplates construction or major renovation at the time of transfer, grantee must put the Property into use within thirty-six (36) months from the date of the deed.
3. Grantee may not sell, lease, sublease, or otherwise encumber the property without prior written consent of the grantor.
4. Grantee must submit annual utilization reports.
5. Grantee must comply with section 606 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949; the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. § 3601-19); Executive Order 11063 (Equal Opportunity in Housing), as applicable; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d to d-4) (Nondiscrimination in Federal Assisted Programs); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681); the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. § 6101-07); the prohibitions against otherwise qualified individuals with handicaps under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794); and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) (36 CFR 1191, Appendices C and D); all implementing regulations of the above listed statutes, including all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the regulations of the Grantor (45 CFR Parts 12, 80, 84 and 91) issued pursuant to said Acts and now in effect.
6. Grantee must remain tax supported or a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code of 1986, as amended, throughout the period of restrictions.

**Upon breach of any of the conditions subsequent contained in the deed of conveyance, title may revert to the Government. The grantor may also permit the grantee to abrogate the conditions by:**

1. Obtaining the consent of the grantor, or its successor in function, and
2. Making payment to the United States of America of 1/360th of the percentage public benefit allowance granted of the fair market value as of the date of such requested abrogation, exclusive of the value of improvements made by the grantee to the extent that they add to the value of that portion of the Property to be released, for each month of the period to be abrogated.

**NOTE:** Other covenants and conditions may be required in the conveyance instrument for such concerns as lead-based paint, environmental condition of the property, historical preservation issues, etc.

## CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION REVIEW

Organizations are eligible to submit applications if they are a State, unit of local government, or a private non-profit organization (must be a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization) that serves persons experiencing homelessness. HHS evaluates applications from eligible organizations on the basis of the following factors:

- A. Services offered – The extent and range of proposed services such as meals, shelter, job training, and counseling.
  - a. The above is not an exhaustive list; other services are considered as they are proposed, including administrative, as long as the program serves persons experiencing homelessness.
  - b. Services provided to low-income persons are not eligible programs; the clientele served must be homeless persons as defined in 45 C.F.R. Part 12a.
- B. Need – The demand for the program and the degree to which the available property will be fully utilized.
  - a. The demand for the program is measured against the current homeless services provided and the number of homeless persons residing in the local community.
  - b. Fully utilized includes making the best use of the entire property and any existing or proposed structures, including full use of available building space.
- C. Implementation Time – The amount of time necessary for the proposed program to become operational.
  - a. Please note that all deeds/leases include a clause that requires full utilization of the property within twelve (12) months from the date of the deed, unless major construction/renovation is required, in which case the grantee/lessee would have thirty-six (36) months from the date of the deed.
  - b. If the applicable time limitation is not met, the grantee/lessee shall either commence payments in cash to HHS for each month thereafter during which the proposed use has not been implemented or take such action as set forth in 45 C.F.R. Part 12.12 and as deemed appropriate by the Department.
- D. Experience – Demonstrated prior success in operating similar programs and recommendations attesting to that fact by local, State, and Federal authorities.
  - a. Any recommendations should address the applicant's prior successes and their ability to operate past programs.
- E. Financial Ability – The adequacy of funding that will likely be available to run the program fully and properly, and to operate the facility.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS  
FEDERAL PROPERTY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
HOMELESS PURPOSES**

(ON SITE)

Please provide complete responses to *each* item in the application format. For ease of reference, begin each response with its respective item number and heading. In an instance where a request for information is not applicable to your program, please include the heading and state "Not Applicable." A good presentation of an application reflects a well thought out plan and objective for the property.

You must submit an original and two (2) copies of the application, along with all attachments.

Applications determined incomplete will either result in a disapproval of the application or a request for additional information. It is to the applicant's benefit to err on the side of providing too much information as opposed to omitting information or not providing enough detail. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their application presents all the information requested in a detailed and complete manner.

Submit completed applications to the Department of Health and Human Services' office listed below by the date specified in the accompanying transmittal letter. If the applicant cannot meet this date, HHS will consider requests for extensions.

Federal Property Assistance Program  
Program Support Center  
Room 5B-17, Parklawn Building  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

If you have any difficulties with the application, or have other questions or concerns, please contact a Realty Specialist at (301)443-2265 or [rpb@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:rpb@psc.hhs.gov).

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use the following checklist to ensure that your application is complete before sending it to HHS. If HHS finds an application to be incomplete, HHS may deny the application.

- \_\_\_ 1. Provide a detailed response to items 1-4 of the application
- \_\_\_ 2. Notify all appropriate units of local government
- \_\_\_ 3. Certify accuracy of application by signing item 7 of the application
- \_\_\_ 4. Attach any requested documents, along with other documents the applicant feels will present a more complete understanding of the proposed use of the property
- \_\_\_ 5. Certify applicant's compliance with applicable Federal laws, insurance requirements, and protection and maintenance standards of the property by signing **Attachment A**
- \_\_\_ 6. Complete and sign the Resolution to Acquire Property in **Attachment B**
- \_\_\_ 7. Complete and certify the Environmental Questionnaire in **Attachment C**
- \_\_\_ 8. Provide copies of all relevant documentation for the Environmental Questionnaire
- \_\_\_ 9. Provide one original and two copies of the completed application, including all requested attachments

## APPLICATION FORMAT

Use the following format to complete your application. Include any supporting documentation as attachments.

- ✓ At the top of the first page state the official name, address of the Federal installation where the surplus property is located (include city, county, and State when giving address), and GSA and/or landholding agency number assigned to the property.
- ✓ Put the GSA and/or landholding agency number assigned to the property at the top of each additional page.

### 1. Description of the Applicant Organization

- (A) State the legal name of the applicant organization and state whether the applicant is a State, political subdivision of the State, or a private nonprofit organization, tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. If tax exempt, include a copy of the formal exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.
- (B) Provide a copy of the document showing statutory or other authority which permits your organization to acquire and hold title to real property for the proposed use. A copy of the applicable citation from the Corporations Division of the Secretary of State's Office, where the applicant is registered, will satisfy this requirement. If the applicant is a nonprofit corporation, present evidence showing said corporation's authorization, under its charter, to hold title to the real estate for which it has applied. Provide a copy of the charter and State certification.
- (C) Give the address and telephone number of applicant organization.
- (D) Give the name, title, and address of the person authorized to complete this purchase. The authorized representative must be the same as named in the governing board resolution.
- (E) Identify all possible lessees, sub-organizations, affiliates, etc., that may participate in and/or operate the proposed program on the requested property, if any.
  - (1) Any organization listed under 1.(E) must meet the same eligibility requirements as the applicant, i.e. the organization must be a State, unit of local government, or a private non-profit organization (must be a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization) that serves persons experiencing homelessness. Provide documentation as necessary.
  - (2) If any of the above organizations will pay rent to the applicant organization, provide a rental agreement (or draft agreement) detailing the terms of the rental amount. Rent cannot exceed the cost of utilities and maintenance for the space used by the organization paying rent.
  - (3) Provide commitment letters, memorandums of agreement, or any other documentation detailing the planned cooperation between the applicant organization and all organizations listed under 1.(E).



**NOTE:** The collaboration of multiple homeless service providers is permissible in order to increase the services offered by the proposed program and to share in the operation and maintenance of the property. However, one applicant organization should act as the lead organization and submit only one application.

- (F) Indicate whether the applicant organization is accredited, approved, or licensed by a Federal or State accrediting, approving, or licensing authority. If so, give the name of such authority.

## 2. Description of Real Property Requested

- (A) Give a general description of the requested property. The amount of property requested should not exceed normal operating requirements. The description should include the amount of acreage and improvements, e.g., buildings, structures, etc. Identify buildings as follows:

**Bldg. No.: Bldg. Name: Size (square feet):**

**NOTE:** A legal description is not required at this time, but HHS may request it at a future date.

- (B) Give information for items (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) as applicable:

- (1) State whether requested acquisition is by deed or lease; if by lease, state the desired term of years for the initial lease.

**NOTE:** Unless the applicant makes a showing of need that warrants a longer term, a lease will not exceed ten (10) years with an option to renew the lease for a successive ten (10) years (i.e., no lease will exceed a total of 20 years).

- (2) Indicate any zoning/land use regulations that are applicable to the subject property, and assure that the proposed program will conform to such regulations, as may be required upon transfer of title from the United States.
- (3) State that the renovation of existing buildings (if any), or construction of any new buildings, will meet State and local building codes and/or regulations for the proposed program of use.
- (4) Report the exact description of utilities required and state how arrangements will be made for securing all needed utility services.
- (5) Identify any easements, including overhead and underground, which are reported with the property, or are to be otherwise acquired for use in connection with the property.

- (C) Applicants may generally acquire related personal property included with the available real property if the need and use are specifically included and justified in the application. It is subject to the same discount allowance as the real property for which you have applied. Identify such related personal property by an inventory attached to each copy of the application showing the description, serial number, or other adequate identification. Applicants may obtain this information from the landholding and/or disposal agency.

### 3. Description of the Proposed Program

**NOTE:** An applicant must place the property into its proposed use within 12 months from the date of transfer, or 36 months where new construction or major renovations are required.

(A) Identify the services the applicant will provide through the use of surplus Federal property, and include:

- (1) The population to be served and service area (e.g. city, county, or state);
- (2) Estimated number of clients to be served in a given year;
- (3) Full range of services provided to program participants;
- (4) Description of housing to be provided (if applicable)

**NOTE:** If an applicant is proposing permanent housing, it must be permanent *supportive* housing, defined as “long-term, affordable, community-based housing that is linked to appropriate supportive health *and* social services that enable homeless individuals and homeless families with disabilities to maintain housing.” For further information, refer to **Attachment E**.

- (5) Description of any rental agreements to be developed between the applicant and prospective clients/residents (if applicable); and

**NOTE:** Any rental agreement (and the description of such an agreement in the application) must contain an assurance that rent will not exceed 30% of the client’s household income. Grantees/lessees must account for all rental income as an identifiable item in fiscal records, and use the income for the approved program from which it derived.

- (6) Description of how the program will link housing and services (if applicable).

(B) List other facilities in the community that currently offer the same type of service(s) you propose to offer, including the number of clients and/or beds. Provide information to support the need for additional services in the community. **Include any surveys, reports, or other documentation to support your analysis, such as a municipality’s ten-year plan to end homelessness, local reports or surveys on the number of persons without shelter, continuum of care plans, etc.**

(C) Supply a detailed description of how acquisition of the property will meet the proposed program’s specific use or needs. This must include:

- (1) Any anticipated improvements to the property (e.g. renovations or construction);
- (2) The time required for completion of any improvements and for bringing the property to full utilization;
- (3) A rough floor plan, including:
  - (a) any existing improvements;
  - (b) the location of the proposed services within the building;
  - (c) estimated square footage use of each component of the proposed program; and
  - (d) location, type, size, and proposed use of any new structures to be built on the property (if applicable).

- (D) Provide written recommendations, endorsements, and studies of appropriate State agencies, public officials of State and local governments, and recognized national or local sponsoring associations or organizations. Applicants should only submit information pertinent to the proposed program.
- (E) Demonstrate that the applicant is qualified to implement the program of use. Provide a description of:
  - (1) The organization's present staff in terms of numbers and qualifications;
  - (2) The range of services currently provided and the length of time any current programs have been operating;
  - (3) The proposed level of staffing and qualifications of such staff as needed for the proposed program;
  - (4) The proposed number and qualifications of new staff the applicant plans to hire, versus the existing staff, to meet the demands of the proposed program; and
  - (5) Past experience and demonstrated success of the applicant relevant to the proposed program.
- (F) If need stems from an emergency resulting from a disaster, explain fully.
- (G) If need is a result of requirements to comply with State standards, explain and enclose certifications from appropriate State departments (i.e., State statutes, court decisions, etc.)
- (H) Identify any real estate owned or leased by the applicant organization. If applicable, include a statement that the real estate owned or leased by the applicant organization is not suitable for the proposed program of utilization.

#### **4. Renovation/Building Plans, Cost Estimates, and Ability to Finance**

- (A) State that the property is suitable for the proposed use and/or provide plans for its conversion, including a rough draft of the floor plan and a plat of the property showing any existing and planned improvements. If there are any easements, rights of use, zoning regulations, or other encumbrances, existing or proposed, which would impede the homeless assistance program, please identify.
- (B) Detail the estimated costs anticipated to prepare the property for full utilization, including:
  - (1) Renovations to existing facilities;
  - (2) Construction of new facilities; and
  - (3) Changes to the land areas (e.g. parking, recreational, open space).

**NOTE:** Any future improvements or renovations to the requested property planned for an unknown future date after the property is in use, unless detailed in full including

proposed plans and a cost estimate in this application, are considered speculative and must receive approval from HHS prior to commencing construction.

- (C) Detail the estimated costs anticipated to operate the program, including any maintenance costs.
- (D) Give a full and complete statement of the ability to finance, operate, and maintain the property requested. Identify the source of funding for converting the property for its intended use, including any new improvements. Identify funding sources for program operations separately. Be sure to include the capital outlay budget and the following, if applicable:
  - (1) Special building funds;
  - (2) Undistributed reserve;
  - (3) Property tax rate;
  - (4) Funds available for personnel and maintenance (include any expected volunteer resources, if applicable);
  - (5) Amount raised by taxation;
  - (6) State appropriation;
  - (7) Other (contracts, services, federal payments, fund-raisers, grants, etc.)

**NOTE:** If the funding sources under "Other" are of a general nature, the application should provide details for each source listed under "Other", including any past grants, uses of past grants, prior fund-raising activities, commitment letters, details of awards, etc.

**NOTE:** HHS prohibits commercial incoming-producing activity (i.e. not rental income) on transferred property, except in such cases where the income-producing activity's goods and/or services relate directly to the approved program. Any income produced, must return to the approved program in order to defray the costs of operation and maintenance, and the applicant must account for such income in their fiscal records.

- (E) If the applicant contemplates that major construction/renovation is necessary to make the property suitable for full utilization, and funds are not currently available, give plans and proposed sources of funding to carry out the proposed program and development. Please include the estimated amount of funds each source will provide, including any anticipated grants.

## **5. Local Government Notification**

- (A) The applicant must provide written notification of its proposed program to the applicable unit of local government responsible for providing sewer, water, police, and fire services. Please provide copies of these notices.

## **6. Completion of Attachments A, B, and C**

- (A) The applicant must certify, by signature of **Attachment A**, its assurance of compliance with nondiscrimination, insurance, and protection and maintenance requirements.
- (B) Complete the governing board resolution, enclosed as **Attachment B**, authorizing a representative to act on behalf of the applicant organization. Be sure to fill out the information regarding the property name and description.

**NOTE:** The certifying officer must be an official other than the representative named in the Resolution. Please provide a copy with the original and each copy of the application.

- (C) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190 42 U.S.C. Sections 4321-4347) requires consideration of the environmental effects that may result from major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, including real property conveyances. Your completion of the Environmental Questionnaire found in **Attachment C** will assist us in evaluating any potential environmental effects arising from your proposal. **You are required to provide the documentation supporting your questionnaire responses and may be required to provide more detailed information at a later time.**

**7. Certification**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that the information in this application  
(Name of authorized official)  
 is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS's) approval of this application does not constitute the final decision on whether to transfer the property. Authority to assign the property for transfer rests with the disposal agency, not HHS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature and Title of Authorized Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name of Authorized Official

If you have any questions regarding the application, or the application process, please call the Division of Property Management, Real Property Section, at (301)443-2265. Applicants can receive additional assistance if they have any problems with the application/transfer process by contacting the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty at (202)638-2535. For general information on other homeless assistance programs or grants, call the Interagency Council on Homelessness at (202)708-4663.

ATTACHMENT A

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

1. The applicant will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, or handicap in the use of the property, and will maintain the records required to demonstrate compliance with the following Federal laws: section 606 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949; the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. § 3601-19); Executive Order 11063 (Equal Opportunity in Housing), as applicable; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d to d-4) (Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681); the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. § 6101-07) and implementing regulations; and the prohibitions against otherwise qualified individuals with handicaps under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794); the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) (36 CFR 1191, Appendices C and D); and all other implementing regulations for the above listed statutes.
2. The applicant agrees for itself, its successors and assigns, that it shall insure all conveyed improvements against loss, damage, or destruction. If any such loss, damage, or destruction shall occur during the period grantee holds title to said property subject to conditions subsequent 1 through 5, said insurance and all monies shall be held in trust by the grantee, its successors or assigns, and shall be promptly used by the grantee for the purpose of repairing such improvements and restoring the same to their former condition and use or for the purpose of replacing said improvements with equivalent or more suitable improvements or, if not so used, the grantee shall cause to be paid over to the Treasurer of the United States that part of the insurance proceeds that is attributable to the Government's reversionary interest in the property lost, damaged, or destroyed, determined on the basis of the fair market value of the facilities at the time of the loss, damage, or destruction.
3. The applicant covenants and agrees for itself, its successors and assigns, that in the event the grantor exercises its option to revert all right, title, and interest in the property to the grantor, or the grantee voluntarily returns title to the property, the grantee shall provide protection to and maintenance of the property until such time as the title reverts to and is accepted by the grantor. Such protection and maintenance shall, at a minimum, conform to the standards prescribed by the General Services Administration in its Customer Guidance for Real Property Disposal in effect as of the date of the deed, as referred to in the Federal Management Regulations (FMR) §102-75.965 (41 CFR 102-75.965). A copy of the applicable portions are attached (**Attachment D**) to the application.

---

Name of Applicant

---

Signature and Title of Authorized Official

---

Date

---

Print Name of Authorized Official

ATTACHMENT B

RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY

Whereas, certain real property owned by the United States, located in the County of

\_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_, has been declared surplus and is subject to assignment for disposal for homeless purposes by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the provisions of Section 203(k)(1) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, more particularly described as follows [*Please insert property name and description below (full legal description is not required at this time)*]:

Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Legal name of applicant)  
needs and can utilize said property for public health purposes in accordance with the requirements of said Acts and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, of which this Board is fully informed, including commitments regarding use and time within which such use shall commence.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Legal name of applicant)  
has legal authority, is willing, and is in a position financially and otherwise to assume immediate care and maintenance of the property, and that \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name of Official(s) legally authorized)

\_\_\_\_\_, is/are hereby authorized, for and on behalf of the  
(Title of Official(s))  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Legal name of applicant)  
to do and perform any and all acts and things which may be necessary to carry out the foregoing resolution, including the preparing, making, and filing of plans, applications, reports, and other documents; the execution, acceptance, delivery, and recordation of agreements, deeds and other instruments pertaining to the transfer of said property; and the payment of any and all sums necessary on account of the purchase price thereof, including fees or costs incurred in connection with the transfer of said property for surveys, title searches, appraisals, recordation of instruments, or escrow costs, together with any payments by virtue of nonuse or deferral of use of the property.

If the applicant is unable to place the property into use with the time limitation indicated below (or determines that a deferral of use should occur), it is understood that the

\_\_\_\_\_ will pay to the Department  
(Legal name of the applicant)  
of Health and Human Services for each month of nonuse beginning twelve (12) months after the date of the deed, or thirty-six (36) months where construction or major renovation is contemplated, the sum of 1/360 of the then market value for each month of nonuse.

If the Department of Health and Human Services approves the application, the board will file a copy of the application and standard deed/lease with their permanent minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Title of Governing Body of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I am the  
(Name of Certifying Officer)  
\_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title of Certifying Officer) (Title of Governing Body)  
and that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the vote  
of a majority of members of \_\_\_\_\_ present at a meeting of said  
(Title of Governing Board)  
Board on \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ at which a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Officer

**Note:** The person named in the Resolution **cannot** sign as the Certifying Officer.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

**Introduction**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is required to include environmental information in its decision-making activities, including the consideration of applications for the use of excess and surplus real property for Homeless purposes under the Federal Property Assistance Program. It is therefore necessary for the applicant to submit environmental information to HHS. HHS uses this information to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of your proposed program of use, as described in your application.

The General Services Administration (GSA) and other agencies (when appropriate) have included environmental information in their management of the property, including the decision to make it available for this program. However, the information provided does not include information about your program's use of the property including various actions and/or activities which were unknown to the other agencies at the time of their disposal decisions.

This application is a request for HHS action (the transfer of Federal property). Therefore, HHS retains the responsibility to evaluate independently the adequacy and accuracy of the information submitted, and to make its own evaluation of the environmental issues which may arise.

HHS will use the requested information to determine if the requested action is a Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. If the action is a CatEx, no further environmental review is required. However, if there is insufficient information to make a determination, additional information will be required. In some circumstances, such as the renovation of a Historic Property or major construction, HHS may approve an incomplete application, subject to the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), if the application is otherwise complete. If the applicant does not cooperate or refuse to provide requested information for either an EA or an EIS, HHS will consider the application incomplete, and thus disapproved.

**Instructions**

Please give a detailed response for each question. If a question is not applicable, state as such along with any information that lead to that determination. Applicants must provide a basis for determination for each answer and attach all relevant documents used to answer the questions. Number and answer each question as presented, and include the applicant organization's name and the property's name and location (municipality, and State) on the top of each page.

There is no need to duplicate any efforts made elsewhere. If an EA or an EIS has been prepared on the proposed project for another local, state, or Federal agency which addresses all of the requested information, attach the EA or EIS in lieu of attaching a completed questionnaire.

Failure to provide the requested information will necessitate returning the application for completion.

## Basis for Determination and Documentation

The basis for determination and any requisite documentation must be traceable and establish the factual data to support the response to each question. The information may include, but is not limited to:

- Printed Material: comprehensive land use plans, zoning maps, city master plans, environmental baseline surveys, an EA/EIS, other documented Federal determinations, etc.;
- Personal Contacts: communication with accepted authorities on the subject(s) along with supporting documentation, including the name, organization, the title of the person contacted and the date of the conversation;
- Site Visit: initial inspection of the property, and surrounding area, in order to make preliminary determinations regarding environmental issues, along with supporting documentation including the date of the site visit, by whom, and observations; testing or sampling not required at this time.

## Guidance

- ✓ The requested information will assist HHS in the environmental review of the proposed Federal action – transferring the property to the applicant organization. Detailed and clearly stated responses allow HHS to more efficiently and accurately assess the environmental impact, and are in the applicant organization's best interest.
- ✓ Several questions ask to compare the proposed use to the prior use. If the property is currently a vacant structure, use the last occupied use of the structure as the point of comparison. If the structure has been vacant for an extended period of time, or is an undeveloped tract of land, use its current unoccupied state as the point of reference.
- ✓ The questions focus on the impact of the proposed use of property on the surrounding environment or the demands of the program on public resources. To better answer these questions, keep in mind the demographics of the area and the demographics of the clientele, including age, served by the proposed program. For example, if the surrounding area is industrial or undeveloped, a temporary shelter for homeless youth will have a different demographic than the surrounding area and most likely require different and/or additional public resources.
- ✓ Due diligence is expected. It is not necessary to consult an environmental professional, but applicants should research any unknowns, contact local and State officials for information, and request any available information from the land-holding Federal agency, GSA, and/or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- ✓ Applicants may contact the disposal agency to arrange a site visit.
- ✓ Please be sure that any information obtained is current and relevant. If a document is lengthy or otherwise difficult to attach to the application, provide a citation for the document so that an outside reviewer can locate the specific reference, e.g., author, document title, publication date, and page number.
- ✓ Applicants should contact HHS if they encounter any difficulty or confusion in trying to find requested information. Applicants may reach a Realty Specialist at (301)443-2265 or at [rpb@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:rpb@psc.hhs.gov).

## Questions

### CURRENT CONDITION OF PROPERTY

1. If there are any structures on the property:
  - a. List the year in which they were built.
  - b. If the structure is over fifty (50) years-old:
    - i. Is the structure on the National Register of Historic Places?
    - ii. Contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine if the proposed use will adversely impact a historic property. Document and provide a copy of any response from the SHPO.
2. Describe any current contamination or adverse environmental condition of the requested property and the ground water below the property. This includes lead-based paint and asbestos in any current structures on the property. Applicants should also list any publicly known contamination on neighboring sites, including if there are any sites on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (NPL) within 1 mile of the property (available at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/npl.htm>). An in-depth search is not required.
3. State any known institutional controls on the property due to environmental contamination (this may include use restrictions, covenants, deed notices, etc. imposed by a prior owner or local, State, or Federal agency).
4. Provide copies of any relevant land use plans (Federal, state, or local) for the requested property, and explain any known conflict(s) between the proposed use and any relevant land use plans.

### WASTE AND POLLUTION

5. What kind/amount of waste will the proposed program create (e.g. municipal waste, construction debris, hazardous waste)?
  - a. If there will be any hazardous waste produced/disposed of on the property, please detail which activities will produce the waste. Such activities include, but are not limited to, dry cleaning, air conditioning repair and service, motor pools, automobile repair, welding, services stations, gas stations, landscaping, agricultural and farming activities, print shops, hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities.
  - b. Detail the disposal plans for any hazardous waste.
6. What pollution prevention measures, if any, does the applicant plan for the location, design, construction, or operation of the proposed use (including soil, sedimentation, or erosion controls, and source reduction/recycling)?

7. Does your State or local government require a storm water control plan for the proposed use of the property?

#### SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

8. What is the scope of the use of the surrounding property (e.g. residential, commercial, or mixed-use), and is the proposed use uncharacteristic of the area?
9. Will there be any change in the community noise level, relevant to the time of day, due to the proposed use of the property?
10. Describe any direct or indirect effect on near by parkland, other public lands, or areas of recognized or scenic value.
11. Will the proposed use of the property emit, or cause to be emitted, any air pollutants?
12. Will the proposed use of the property change the amount of carbon dioxide and other green house gases released as compared to the prior use of the property?

#### PUBLIC RESOURCES

13. Does the proposed program require the construction/development of any new public facilities or services (e.g. schools, medical facilities, roads, sewage, or public transportation)?
14. Will the proposed use of the property require an increase in or the generation of more energy/electricity? (Contact the local utility or supplier and document the name and date of contact.)
15. Will the proposed use of the property require an increase in other non-electric utilities such as natural gas?
16. Will the proposed use of the property change the amount of solid waste generated on the property compared to the prior use?
17. Will the proposed use of the property increase the amount of wastewater in need of treatment from the property compared to the prior use?

#### FEDERAL LAW

18. Safe Drinking Water:
  - a. Is the property in proximity to an EPA designated sole source aquifer?
  - b. Will the proposed use of the property change the amount of drinking water needed as compared to the prior use?

19. Floodplains:

- a. Is the property located in a flood plain?
- b. Will the proposed use of the property encourage development in a floodplain?

20. Wetlands and Navigable Waters (lakes, rivers, streams, etc.; including any ditch, culvert, or other source of water that has a hydrologic connection to a larger body of water):

- a. Are there any wetlands or water resources on or near the property?
- b. Does the proposed use of the property require construction in wetlands?
- c. If construction is required, will there be any dredging or filling of a wetland or water resource?

21. Coastal Zone Management:

- a. Will the proposed use of the property directly affect a designated Coastal Zone? (Coastal Zones are not necessarily the just area immediately next to the coast; some zones encompass the entire State, such as Florida, or major watersheds such as the Chesapeake Bay watershed.)
- b. If so, provide the State Coastal Zone Management Plan and highlight any potential conflicts? (Each State adjacent to a coast, including those located in the Great Lakes region, should have a State office to manage its coastal zone development and use.)

22. Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- a. Is the property located near a wild, scenic, or recreational river area?
- b. If so, will the proposed use create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river?

23. Farmland Protection:

- a. Will the proposed use of the property convert any agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses?

24. Wilderness:

- a. Is the property located near a designated Wilderness Area or other public land with a similar designation?
- b. If so, will the proposed program have any direct or indirect affect on the Wilderness Area or public land?

25. Endangered Species:

- a. Does the property have, or is it located near, any critical habitat of an endangered or threatened species?
- b. Will the proposed use of the property affect, directly or indirectly, any Federal or State listed endangered or threatened species?

DUE DILIGENCE

26. Demonstrate that the applicant has performed due diligence to ensure that the proposed use of the property will not result in a known violation of applicable (Federal, State, or

local) laws or regulations that protect the environment or public health and safety. If the proposed use will result in a known violation, explain fully.

27. Describe, within reason, any known controversy over the environmental effects of the proposed use for the property.

CERTIFICATION

28. Either complete a copy of the below certification or complete and remove this page from the application.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that the information in the  
(Name of Authorized Official)  
Environmental Questionnaire is true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that HHS may require more environmental information prior to either the approval/disapproval of the application or transfer of the requested property. Such information may include, but is not limited to, Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements.

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Name of Applicant

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Signature and Title of Authorized Official

Date

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Print Name of Authorized Official

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## ATTACHMENT D

### PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

The following is an excerpt from the GSA's Customer Guide to Real Property Disposal, as referred to in the Federal Management Regulations (FMR) §102-75.965 (41 CFR 102-75.965):

#### Protection Standards

##### *For all protected properties--*

- If a property is within the range of municipal or other public protection services but is outside the geographic boundaries of the service provider, then advance arrangements should be made with the local authorities to provide police and fire protection.
- If a property or facility has large areas that need protection, then use automobiles to patrol the area.
- If a property is fenced, only keep open a minimum number of gates.

##### *Fire protection or security personnel are not needed at--*

- Facilities that have no buildings, structures or related personal property.
- Facilities where the value of the improvements and/or related personal property (or realizable recovery of their value) is less than the cost to protect and maintain the property for one year.
- Facilities with little value, which can be locked or boarded up and are located within public police and fire department service areas.
- Facilities where major buildings do not contain large quantities of easily removable personal property and also are equipped with automatic sprinklers supervised by a monitoring service.
- Facilities where agreements can be made with a lessee of a portion of the property to protect the remaining portion(s) at no cost or nominal cost.

##### *Properties that need a resident custodian (guard) are--*

- Facilities containing little removable personal property but have many buildings that will be sold for off-site use when
  - the buildings have low realizable value
  - the buildings are spaced far enough apart that loss of more than a few buildings in a single fire is improbable
  - the buildings are located near water for firefighting purposes and the local public fire and police protection services will respond promptly.
- Small inactive industrial and commercial facilities that need to remain open for inspection and public fire and police protection can be secured by telephone.
- Facilities whose highest and best use is salvage.
- Facilities with only salvage value but are potentially dangerous and attractive to children or curiosity seekers and posting signs is not sufficient to protect the public or the property.

##### *Properties needing continuous guard service are--*

- Fenced facilities with high market value require one guard on duty at all times (5 guards in total are required).
- These properties are permitted one open gate which can be locked during patrols.
- All buildings can be locked.
- Local fire and police protection can be secured by telephone.

### *Properties needing a high degree of protection*

At a minimum, two firefighter-guards will be on duty at all times for the classes of facilities listed below. Consider all relevant and pertinent factors when deciding on the number and assignment of the guards.

- Facilities with a high market value that require an on-site fire-fighting force adequate to subdue fires until outside help arrives.
- Facilities with a high market value without access to outside assistance, require an on-site fire-fighting force adequate to extinguish fires.
- Facilities with a high market value with large areas to patrol.
- Facilities with a high market value with no fencing and containing large quantities of personal property susceptible to pilferage.
- Facilities with a high market value needing several gates open for operating purposes.

### *Firefighter-Guards*

Firefighters and guards provide fire protection and security for excess and surplus real property requiring both forms of protection. Combine the duties of each to the maximum extent possible. In the interest of cost savings, they can also be used for various miscellaneous services such as grass/weed removal, servicing fire extinguishers, and other activities related to the general protection of the property.

### *Operating Requirements of Protection Units*

Firefighter-guards or guards should periodically patrol facilities requiring protection. The frequency of the patrols will be determined by the location and size of the facility, type of structures and physical barriers, and the amount and type of activity at the facility. In some instances, a centralized monitoring service provider will suffice.

### *Watchman's Clock*

To ensure adequate coverage of the entire property by firefighter-guards or guards, an approved watchman's clock should be provided, with key stations strategically located to enable guards to cover the entire property.

### *Protection Alarm Equipment*

Automatic fire detection devices and related equipment and services can substantially reduce protection costs. However, using these devices are primarily for obtaining fire and police protection in an emergency. Such devices can supplement or in some cases, eliminate the need for guard patrols.

### *Sentry Dogs*

Some high market value facilities that cover a large area and/or are in remote locations, invite intrusion by curiosity seekers, hunters, vagrants, etc. These facilities require special protection measures. Using sentry dogs is a cost effective alternative to additional security personnel. Get advice on the use, care, and training from the nearest police department using sentry dogs. Also, when sentry dogs are used to protect government property, post a sign with view unobstructed that says "Warning—This Government Property Patrolled by Sentry Dogs."



## **Maintenance Standards**

The following standards or criteria should be used as a guide for the upkeep of excess and surplus real property:

### *Temporary Buildings and Structures*

Vacant temporary structures should not be maintained except in unusual circumstances. Temporary buildings housing personal property that cannot be readily removed to permanent structures should be maintained only to the extent necessary to protect the personal property.

### *Permanent Buildings and Structures*

- (a) Don't paint the interior. Only spot paint exterior wood or metal surfaces to prevent serious deterioration.
- (b) Limit carpentry and glazing to only that which is necessary to close openings to prevent weather damage and pilferage, repair damage to floors, roofs, and side-walls to prevent further damage, shoring and bracing to prevent structural damage, and other similar operations.
- (c) Patch damage to roofing and sheet metal as necessary.
- (d) Perform masonry repairs, such as brick, tile, and concrete work only to prevent leakage or disintegration or to protect against imminent structural damage.
- (e) Don't heat buildings for maintenance purposes except in unusual circumstances.

### *Mechanical and Electrical Installations*

These include plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, electrical equipment, elevators, and other similar systems.

#### **For inactive facilities:**

- Maintain mechanical and electrical systems only when necessary to stop or prevent serious deterioration.
- Employ personnel for this work temporarily, at periodic intervals when an inspection indicates that this work is necessary.
- De-energize electrical systems, drain water from all fixtures, turn off heat, and secure the building against unauthorized entry.
- Drain sprinkler systems during freezing weather and reactivate when there is no danger of freezing.

#### **For active facilities:**

- Keep equipment in reasonable operating condition.
- Operate equipment to service private tenants or procure utility services to distribute to private tenants only to the extent necessary to comply with a lease or permit, or in cases where tenants can't get these services directly from utility companies or other sources.
- Inspect (periodically) facilities that have elevators and/or high-pressure boilers and related equipment. Inspections should be made by qualified, licensed inspectors to protect against injury or death to personnel and damage to property.
- Use individual heaters, when practical, instead of operating heating plants.

### *Grounds, Roads, Railroads, and Fencing*

- Limit grounds maintenance to the removal of vegetation in order to avoid fire hazards and to control poisonous or noxious plant growth in accordance with State and local laws and regulations.

- Plow fire lanes where needed.
- Remove snow from roads and other areas to the extent necessary for access for maintenance, fire protection, and other similar activities.
- Sell hay crops (wherever practicable) to the highest bidder (s) with the purchaser performing all labor in connection with cutting and removal.
- Use agricultural and/or grazing leases to reduce costs of grounds maintenance, where practical.
- Maintain the portion of road network necessary for fire trucks and other minimum traffic. These roads should be maintained to the extent necessary to allow safe passage at a reasonable speed.
- Maintain railroads to the extent necessary for protection and maintenance operations or as required in lease or permit provisions.
- Clear ditches and drainage facilities to allow surface water run-off.
- Fencing and other physical barriers should be sufficient to protect against unauthorized entry.

#### *Utilities*

In cases where utilities are purchased by contract, review the utility contracts to see if you can save money by revising them.

#### **For inactive properties:**

- Maintain water systems, sewage disposal systems, electrical distribution systems, etc., to the extent necessary to provide minimum service.
- De-energize electrical systems and turn off the water in buildings or areas that don't require these services.
- Don't maintain utilities not in use or that service dismantled or abandoned buildings/structures.

#### **For active properties:**

- Operation rates for water supply, electrical power, and sewage disposal facilities should be far below normal capacities.
- Use engineering studies to determine structural and operating changes necessary for maximum economy.
- Turn off, rather than repair, leaky water lines unless they are necessary for fire protection or other purposes.

#### *Properties Disposed of as Salvage*

Do not spend money to maintain property whose highest and best use is salvage.

#### **Repairs**

Limit repairs to additions or changes necessary for preservation and maintenance of the property to--

- Deter or prevent excessive, rapid, or dangerous deterioration or obsolescence.
- Restore property damaged by storm, flood, fire, accident, or earthquake when restoration is required.

ATTACHMENT E

**RULES GOVERNING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Federal Register: July 10, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 131)]

[Notices]

[Page 38882-38883]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Program Support Center; Use of Federal Real Property To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Program Support Center, HHS

ACTION: Final notice

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[Page 38882]

SUMMARY: Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11411 (Title V) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to make suitable Federal properties categorized as excess or surplus available to representatives of persons experiencing homelessness as a permissible use in the protection of public health. This notice finalizes a policy revision under Title V to include permanent supportive housing as an allowable use of surplus real property to assist persons experiencing homelessness. The purpose of this policy revision is to increase the supportive housing and service opportunities available to communities as they respond to homelessness, and is consistent with efforts within Federal, State, and local governments, and communities themselves, to end chronic homelessness. This final notice follows publication of a notice and request for comments on January 26, 2006.

DATES: Effective Date: September 1, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John G. Hicks, Chief, Space Management Branch, Division of Property Management, Administrative Operations Service, Program Support Center, Room 5B-17, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857; telephone number (301) 443-2265.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Discussion of the Public Comments on the Proposed Policy Revision

On January 26, 2006 (71 FR 4366), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a notice and request for comments that described a proposed policy revision under Title V to include permanent supportive housing as an allowable use of surplus real property to assist persons experiencing homelessness. The public comment period closed on February 28, 2006. HHS received comments from 16 respondents representing a variety of organizations and entities. Comments were received from: homeless service providers; homeless advocacy groups; a public housing authority; and Federal, State, and city government agencies.

## II. General Comments About the Draft Notice

All of the comments received expressed support for the proposed policy revision. Eight of the respondents expressed support for the policy revision with no further comment.

Comment: Five of the respondents suggested that HHS should further revise the policy to allow all forms of non-supportive affordable permanent housing to be included as an eligible use under Title V.

HHS Response: Title V of the McKinney Act directs HHS to include, as a permissible use in the protection of public health, the furnishing of surplus real property to assist homeless individuals and families. The Secretary exercises the authority to approve permanent supportive housing programs for Title V, consistent with HHS' mission to protect the public health. The provision of low-income housing (i.e. the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program) is under the purview of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HHS, as the nation's public health agency, does not operate low-income housing programs, and does not intend to duplicate already existing programs operated by HUD. The proposed policy revision is intended to reaffirm HHS' 1992 determination that the provision of low-income housing does not constitute an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V. In contrast, we are proposing a permanent supportive housing program that is long-term, community-based, and linked to supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities.

Comment: Three of the respondents recommended that the definition for permanent supportive housing should include the term "affordable."

HHS Response: HHS has modified the definition of permanent supportive housing to include the term affordable.

Comment: Three of the respondents recommended that the term "disability" should be explicitly defined.

HHS Response: HHS has included a definition for disability in the final Notice.

## III. Background

The HHS Program Support Center (PSC) administers the Federal Real Property Assistance Program, the program that governs the transfer of surplus Federal real property for public health purposes under Title 40, section 550 of the United States Code, "Public Buildings, Property, and Works," and the transfer of excess and surplus Federal real property pursuant to Title V.

Under Title V, a representative of persons experiencing homelessness may submit an application to the Secretary of HHS to acquire suitable excess or surplus Federal real property for use in the assistance of persons experiencing homelessness. In 1991, HHS, HUD, and the General Services Administration (GSA) jointly published a regulation implementing the provisions of Title V, codified at 45 CFR part 12a (the joint regulation). Title V authorizes the Secretary to make

property in these categories available to representatives of persons experiencing homelessness, by lease or deed, as a public health use pursuant to subsections (a) to (d) of section 550 of Title 40, United States Code. In accordance with subsection (d) of Title 40, the Secretary may propose to sell or lease property assigned to the Secretary for use in the protection of the public health, including research. To implement both Title V and section 550 of Title 40, the Secretary determines whether an applicant's proposed program of utilization is an approvable public health program, and then recommends to the Administrator of GSA which excess and surplus real property is needed for that approved program in the protection of the public health. 40 U.S.C. 550(d); 45 CFR 12.3(a).

Title V directs HHS to include, as a permissible use in the protection of public health, the furnishing of surplus real property to assist homeless individuals and families. Title V does not prescribe appropriate homeless assistance programs.

HHS concluded in 1992 that long-term housing did not constitute an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V. HHS subsequently adopted the HUD standard, limiting occupancy in Title V's transitional housing programs to 24 months. Until now, HHS has not considered whether the provision of long-term, community-based housing linked with supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness was a permissible public health use.

The Secretary exercises the authority to approve permanent supportive housing programs for Title V, consistent with HHS' mission to protect the public health. There are several critical distinctions between the policy decision in 1992 regarding the use of surplus real property for low-income housing and the current policy revision to allow surplus real property to be used for permanent supportive housing. Low-income housing is defined as subsidized housing opportunities for individuals with low incomes. The provision of low-income housing (i.e. the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program) is [Page 38883] under the purview of HUD. HHS, as the nation's public health agency, does not operate low-income housing programs, and does not possess the experience or expertise to complement HUD's mission. The policy revision is intended to reaffirm HHS' 1992 determination that the provision of low-income housing does not constitute an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V. In contrast, we are proposing a permanent supportive housing program that is long-term, affordable, community-based, and linked to supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities.

#### IV. Policy Revision

HHS has historically been involved in the provision of permanent supportive housing, such as through the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program that is operated in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Given HHS' history of involvement in the health service component of supportive housing programs, there is precedent to suggest that this would be an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V.

Permanent supportive housing is a service model that links housing and services together, without the 24-month time limit traditionally imposed by a transitional housing program. Initial research thus far suggests the effectiveness of permanent supportive housing for individuals with

disabilities and those who are chronically homeless. In several studies, this model has been successful at achieving housing stability. For example, placement of homeless people with severe mental illness in permanent supportive housing is associated with reductions in subsequent use of shelters, hospitalizations, and incarcerations (Culhane et al., 2001). Early outcomes in a study of supportive housing with integrated services suggest that these services reduced the use of emergency health care rooms, psychiatric and detoxification programs as well as inpatient care (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2000). Experimental studies comparing the relative impact of case management and housing resources suggest that long-term housing resources are distinctively effective in reducing homelessness (Rosenheck, 2003).

The policy revision will allow property acquired through the Title V process to be utilized for the development of permanent supportive housing programs that provide permanent housing along with supportive services to homeless people in need of public health assistance and/or services (e.g., substance abuse, mental health, case management, medical care services, and disabled and frail elderly homeless services). This revision would not preclude communities from using surplus property to develop transitional housing programs, emergency shelter programs, or any other homeless assistance program currently approvable by HHS, but simply expands the options available under Title V.

For the purpose of the Title V program, permanent supportive housing means long-term, affordable, community-based housing that is linked to appropriate supportive health and social services (e.g., substance abuse, mental health, case management, medical care services, and disabled and frail elderly services) that enable homeless individuals and homeless families with disabilities to maintain housing. Permanent means there is no time limit to residency, provided a tenant meets conditions of occupancy as established by the program. Affordable means that generally households or tenants pay no more than 30 percent of the occupant's annual income on rent. Eligible populations for this program include homeless individuals with a disability, homeless families with a disabled family member (either parent or child), and homeless frail elderly populations. For the purposes of this program, a disability is defined as a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living. This definition of disability was developed collaboratively by HHS, HUD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Chronic Homelessness Initiative.

The same evaluation criteria outlined in the joint regulation will continue to apply to all applications received for consideration under Title V, including those requesting property to be used for permanent supportive housing. Applicants must fully describe the proposed program, demonstrate how the services to be provided will address the needs of the homeless population to be served, and otherwise comply with the requirements of Title V and the joint regulation.

Existing grantees or lessees interested in changing current programs to include permanent supportive housing are requested to provide a written expression of interest to the Division of Property Management, Administrative Operations Service, Program Support Center, Room 5B-17, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Grantees and lessees will be required to submit an amended application.